

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY GROUP

April 25, 2002
MAG Office
302 North First Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Jim Hull, Mesa, Chair
Kevin Hinderleider, Avondale
*Betsy Wise¹, Carefree
Pat McDermott, Chandler
Peter Putterman¹, Fountain Hills
*Shawn Woolley², Gilbert
**Jerry Wightman, Glendale
*John Imig¹, Goodyear
*Cary Parker², Maricopa County

*Duncan Miller¹, Paradise Valley
*Ralph Spencer, Peoria
Greg Binder, Acting Chair, Phoenix
Tracy Corman, Queen Creek
*Kevin Sonoda, Scottsdale
Randy Jackson, Surprise
**John Laue¹, Tempe
*Ralph Velez, Tolleson
*Derek Rushing, ADOT
Randi Alcott¹, RPTA

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

**Mark Goldstein, IRC
Audrey Skidmore, MAG
Heidi Pahl, MAG
Don Wiltshire, MAG ITS Associate

**Linda Bauerle, Norstan
Bob Bobbett, Qwest
Al Macaluso, Qwest
Stuart Clapick, Momentum Interactive

**Participated via telephone conference call.

- 1 Site Coordinator
- 2 Site Backup Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chair, Jim Hull. Voting members: Jerry Wightman, Tracy Corman and John Laue attended via telephone conference call.

2. MAGTAG Funded Projects from Previous Requests

Rita Walton stated that MAG has been putting together the FY 2003 Work Program. She noted that all MAG committees provided input, and that the document will go to Management Committee and Regional Council in May, 2002.

Ms. Walton identified ongoing TAG projects and FY 2002 carry forward projects. She noted that MAGTAG has a number of projects underway, including the Regional Videoconferencing System, the Regional Community Network Study and Regional Connections. She also identified three funded projects that have not yet started: the Regional Telecommunications Strategic Plan, Additional Sites and Outreach to Underserved Populations, that can begin this fiscal year. Ms. Walton mentioned that there is funding for a Telecommunications Associate to assist with these projects.

3. Review of Strategic Planning Facilitation and Brainstorming Session

Jim Hull reviewed the top six priorities from the brainstorming and facilitation session. Mr. Hull stated that all other items on the brainstorm list can fit into the top six priorities. He asked the committee if they would like to continue to meet monthly or change to bimonthly or quarterly meetings. He noted that if the full committee did not meet monthly that the TAG could form subcommittees to meet on a monthly basis and report results to the full TAG. Mr. Hull asked for comments from all MAGTAG members.

Randi Alcott and Peter Putterman stated that they would like to continue monthly meetings.

Ms. Alcott noted that the Regional Videoconferencing System (RVS) Marketing Group met before the TAG meeting and she thought it was effective to hold subcommittee meetings prior to the full committee meeting.

Pat McDermott asked for MAG staff's view of the MAGTAG as a committee. Audrey Skidmore responded that TAG is a modal committee that is technical not policy oriented and that TAG educates MAG member agencies as well as the community on telecommunication issues. Randi Alcott added that TAG focuses on regional projects. Pat McDermott asked if TAG forwards projects to the Transportation Review Committee (TRC). Jim Hull responded that TAG does forward projects to TRC just the same as other modal committees but that it is not always clear how telecommunications projects affect air quality whereas it is well understood how street projects affect air quality and therefore funding allocations for street projects are much easier.

Randy Jackson stated that he was in favor of forming subcommittees to get desired outcomes and results. Kevin Hinderleider stated that he likes the idea of TAG educating the community on telecommunications issues and he likes having TAG as a representation of all the cities and towns and Indian communities in Maricopa County as the TAG has more leverage and influence than an individual city.

Peter Putterman said that he would like to focus on priority one and identify TAG's vision, mission and objectives. Mr. Putterman expressed concern with lack of participation if subcommittees were formed.

Greg Binder commented that TAG has not been very advisory and that TAG has the opportunity to influence things that MAG does. He noted that members sharing information does not fulfill the advisory role. Jerry Wightman seconded Greg Binder's comments.

The TAG suggested that Rita Walton should advise not only Management Committee and Regional Council, but also smaller member agencies and the community.

Tracy Corman said she likes the idea of subcommittee meetings held monthly prior to the full committee meetings.

Mark Goldstein read the ten key MAG telecommunications issues from the June 1997 Electronic Highway Infrastructure Development and Information Services report. Mr. Goldstein said they were:

- Model Telecommunication Ordinances
- Right of Way Coordination
- Licensing/Franchising and Revenue Stream Protection
- Locating and Permitting Wireless Providers
- Emergency/Public Safety Communications
- Telecommuting and Teleconferencing
- Public Electronic Access to Information and Services
- Education of Staff and Public Officials to Issues/Technologies
- Geographic Information Systems Startup and Connectivity
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Coordination

Peter Putterman asked if MAG could ask the city managers to choose the correct people to sit on the MAGTAG. Rita Walton explained that MAG has already done that by giving a list of all MAG committees and members to the city managers and requesting their input in identifying the correct person to sit on each committee. Ms. Walton noted that the results of their choices have resulted in the addition of Tracy Corman to the MAGTAG and a few other name changes on the TAG.

Pat McDermott noted that in forming TAG subcommittees, it will be necessary to have people who will commit to prioritizing and carrying out the TAG vision.

Mr. Hull asked for volunteers to work on a subcommittee to meet prior to the next TAG meeting and prepare a draft mission statement for the TAG. Kevin Hinderleider and Jim Hull volunteered. Mr. Hull suggested that he might "volunteer" others.

4. MAGTAG Projects Update

Audrey Skidmore provided an update on the Regional Community Network Study. She said that MAG held two focus groups (business and education) and that working paper three should be available to the Review Group prior to their next meeting on May 6, 2002. Ms. Skidmore noted that the next task would involve interviewing the telecommunications industry.

Heidi Pahl provided an update on the Regional Videoconferencing System (RVS). Ms. Pahl noted that site coordinator meetings are being held monthly and that the April 23, 2002 site coordinator meeting was a great success. Mr. Binder asked why it was a success. Ms. Pahl responded that many site coordinators participated in the seven site multipoint videoconference and were enthusiastic to learn about the advanced features and capabilities of the videoconferencing system such as scan converter, phone add-in, document sharing and so on. Tracy Corman added that the site coordinator meeting was very beneficial to the Queen Creek site coordinators. Heidi Pahl mentioned that the RVS Marketing Group met via multipoint videoconference before the MAGTAG meeting to discuss the Videoconferencing Media Event, a site coordinator survey and hosting forums and open houses. Ms. Pahl announced that the RVS Media event is scheduled for May 30, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. as a 5 site multipoint videoconference between five mayors. She noted that MAG staff was trying to secure a celebrity to make the event more entertaining. Heidi Pahl said that service and support for the RVS is going well. She offered to assist anyone that was experiencing difficulty with Norstan Service and Support.

Peter Putterman expressed frustration with ongoing network issues that prevent Fountain Hills from participating in a multipoint videoconference. Linda Bauerle mentioned that Norstan continues attempts to resolve the Fountain Hills issue.

5. Informational Session

Al Macaluso, Arizona Manager for Government and Education at Qwest, gave an overview on Qwest Communications short and long term plans for items such as product offerings, service and public relations. Mr. Macaluso stated that Qwest is releasing new technologies and continues to support all existing technologies. He noted that all services moving forward will be fiber based. He said that he has information on what homeland security grants are available and how to get them. He also said that Qwest business should improve with re-entry into the long distance market.

Mr. Macaluso stated that Qwest continues to improve service and has short installation periods. He noted that after the recent layoffs Qwest still employs 55,000 people and that most layoffs came from administration and support. He stated that Qwest has made a commitment for a fiber buildout to rural communities. He said that fourth on the list of priorities for rural fiber buildout is Circle City to Wickenburg which is a 20 mile fiber build at a cost of \$1.35 million. He expects the Circle City job to be complete by December, 2002.

Jim Hull complimented Mr. Macaluso for his candid overview. Peter Putterman said that he has had pleasant experiences working with Mr. Macaluso's department.

Randy Jackson asked if fiber would be available further out on US60 or Grand Avenue. Al Macaluso said that he would check into it and provide a timeline for when fiber would be available in that area. Mr. Jackson also asked if Qwest plans to upgrade the equipment at the Circle City/Wickenburg central offices. Mr. Macaluso said that the equipment will be upgraded when they do the fiber buildout in that area.

Al Macaluso stated that Qwest will be holding Town Hall meetings in the rural areas.

Mark Goldstein asked what Qwest's plan is for getting DSL and VDSL to urban residents. Mr. Macaluso said that with the USWest Qwest merger the VDSL has been put on hold. A new Lucent Technology DSL Product is now available that should make DSL more widely available. He noted that he would send a list to MAG of DSL service locations. Mr. Macaluso stated that he did not know the status of VDSL but that he would find out and report back to MAG.

6. Announcements and Public Input

Mark Goldstein had two announcements. Mr. Goldstein reminded MAGTAG that May 1-2, 2002 is the Arizona Government Technology Executive Leadership Forum at the Phoenix Civic Plaza. He also announced that the German Centers of Excellence will be hosting an event in Phoenix on May 14, 2002 to introduce Phoenixians to Germany's hottest IT companies and to network with the most influential German business leaders in order to explore the latest technology trends from Europe. Mr. Goldstein stated that you can get further information at www.germancenters.com.

7. Meetings

The next meeting is May 23, 2002 from 10 AM to noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 PM.